

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-20 as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,356,551 to EGBERT in view of U.S. Patent 6,449,647 to COLBY et al., hereinafter COLBY.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner alleges that EGBERT discloses a server module that comprises at least one data processing unit, at least one addressable communication interface, a switching interface, and a routing calculation unit. Applicant submits that this assertion is incorrect.

Applicant submits that EGBERT fails to disclose or even suggest a modularly designed server that has a plurality of server modules and a switching device, in which each server module comprises a switching interface and a routing calculation unit, as taught by Applicant's invention and defined in the claims. As discussed, for example, at page 8, lines 31-37 of Applicant's specification, Applicant's arrangement enables any number of server modules to be connected to the switching device. Further, as discussed, for example, at page 9, lines 3-8 of Applicant's specification, each server module of Applicant's arrangement includes a routing calculation unit, which results in the load equalization between the various server modules being optimized.

Further, Applicant submits that COLBY fails to disclose or suggest that which is lacking in EGBERT. For example, Applicant submits that COLBY does not even hint that each server module includes routing calculation units.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of

EGBERT and COLBY in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the present invention, as defined by Applicant's claims, in which each server module includes a data processing unit, an addressable communication interface, a switching interface, and a routing calculation unit. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention, as defined by the claims, is not rendered obvious by the combination of EGBERT and COLBY.

By the current amendment, Applicant cancels original claims 1-20 and submits new claims 21-29 for the Examiner's consideration. New claims 21-29 are based on the originally filed claims, but have been drafted to more clearly indicate the feature of the invention.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of the claims no longer exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection, to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass the application to issue.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

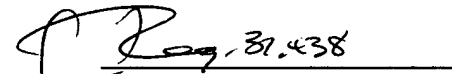
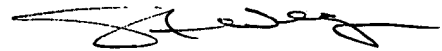
In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Xiaoning NIE


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